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RECENT STUDIES OF INFANT MORTALITY.

The *Centralblatt für allgemeine Gesundheitspflege*, vol. xxii., Parts 1 and 2, contains a brief paper by Dr. Dietrich on "Säuglingsernährung und Wöchnerinnen-Asyle." The author obtained reports from 628 women of the poorer class in Cologne who had been patients at the Lying-in Hospital, which showed that 50.9 per cent. of the children had been nursed at the breast alone for three months, and only 21.5 per cent. for nine months. Among those who received such natural nourishment for less than three months, 37.3 per cent. died in the first year, while of the rest only 8.1 per cent. died.

Dr. F. Prinzing in the Third and Fourth Part of the same volume studies "Die angebliche Wirkung hoher Kindersterblichkeit im Sinne Darwinischer Auslese," controverting the view of Oesterlen that countries having a high infant mortality show more resistance among those surviving, due to more rigorous selection. He compares first the infantile rate with the rate between one year and five in various countries of Europe, in the provinces of Prussia and Austria and the cantons of Switzerland, with the result that no inverse relation appears. Comparison of infant mortality with tuberculosis rates and with the proportion of recruits fit for military service yields similarly negative results, and Dr. Prinzing closes with an able discussion of the causes of infant mortality, in which he shows that the diseases of the digestive canal and the respiratory tract mainly contributory to it do not specially affect children of generally weak constitutions, and that the infantile death-rate could not therefore be expected to be a selective one.

In the *Deutsche Vierteljahrsschrift für öffentliche Gesundheitspflege*, vol. xxxv., Part 2, is a valuable review of "Die Säuglingssterblichkeit und die Massregeln öffentlich-hygienischer Art, die zum Zwecke ihrer Herabsetzung genommen werden können," by Dr. A. Würtz, which begins with a compilation of the statistics of this subject as collected by Eröss (*Zeitschrift für Hygiene*, xix.) and others. The infantile mortality in thirteen European countries (deaths under one year per hundred births) was found to vary from 9.7 in Ireland to 28.7 in Bavaria, averaging 18.87. In 1899 the rates for the 29 German cities of over 100,000 population ranged from 15.4 in Frankfurt-on-Main to 32.0 in Chemnitz, and averaged 22. Of this great mortality, moreover, about a third occurs in the first month. In Berlin the rate for the first month was 16.29, and for the twelfth only 1.68, with a steady fall between. A rather close connection exists

between the birth-rate and the infantile mortality (per 100 born) in various countries; and among families the same relation was shown by Neumann for Danish families, as follows:—

No. of children in family .	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9 and more
Deaths per 100 births . . .	20.0	19.1	25.1	23.4	24.5	31.1	35.8	40.3	52.5

Probably the high birth-rate and the high mortality are independent effects of general economic conditions. By social grades the infantile mortality was found by Wolff to vary from 8.9 in the higher classes to 30.5 among the artisans. Dr. Würtz considers the enormous death-rate among illegitimate children, and then takes up the question of the causes of infantile mortality. From 30 to 60 per cent. of the deaths of young children are due to digestive derangements, according to various observers; and these occur almost entirely among the children denied their natural nourishment. The following table is quoted for Berlin:—

Food Supply.	Deaths from Diseases of the Digestive Tract.	
	Legitimate.	Illegitimate.
Mother's milk	1.3	1.6
Mixed human and animal milk,	7.9	23.7
Animal milk alone	18.7	29.9
With milk substitutes	51.1	71.9

Finally, it is in summer, when the bacteria in milk find opportunity for most excessive development, that the mortality is greatest.

DEATHS FROM DIARRHŒA IN 1899 IN GERMAN CITIES WITH OVER 15,000
INHABITANTS. RATES PER 10,000 INHABITANTS.

Jan.	Feb.	March.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	6.0	9.0	28.0	60.0	30.0	7.0	4.0	3.0

All these facts should be well known, and their practical importance is so great that they cannot be too often emphasized.

The *Centralblatt für allgemeine Gesundheitspflege*, vol. xxii.,

Parts 5 and 6, contains a somewhat similar paper by Dr. Arthur Keller on "Säuglingssterblichkeit und Säuglingsfürsorge." He quotes from Maurel an interesting analysis of deaths during the various parts of the first year:—

AVERAGE NUMBER OF DEATHS PER DAY IN FRANCE IN 1895.

0-4 Days.	5-9 Days.	10-14 Days.	15-30 Days.	2d Month.	3d Month.	4th-6th Month.	7th-12th Month.
4,341	1,738	1,249	1,210	638	490	311	188

The author, like Dr. Würtz, believes that the proportion of infantile mortality due to digestive disorders is commonly much underestimated as a result of defective diagnosis, and holds that these causes probably account for 70 to 80 per cent. of the total deaths under one year.

Dr. John Tatham contributes some tables of "Infant Mortality" to *Public Health* for October, 1903, which show that the rate of deaths under one year to 100 births has during the last ten years ranged above and below an average of 16.8 for males and 13.8 for females, showing no general tendency toward a decrease. Diarrhœal diseases added 2.9 to the rate for males and 2.5 for females, a much lower proportion than that given by the German authorities.

Another contribution to the same subject is a study of "The Factors which determine the Local Incidence of Fatal Infantile Diarrhœa," at Croydon, by Dr. H. M. Richards in the *Journal of Hygiene* for July, 1903. That infantile mortality has been increasing from this cause is well shown by the following figures:—

DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR PER 100 BIRTHS.

	Total.	Diarrhœa and Enteritis.	Other Causes.
1883-1887	11.8	1.6	10.2
1888-1892	11.6	1.0	10.6
1893-1897	14.2	2.5	11.7
1898-1902	14.3	3.8	10.5

For the ten years, 1893-1902, the rate for diarrhœa and enteritis was 3.1; and of this the third quarter of the year contributed 2.6. Among breast-fed children the author computes the death-rate per

100 from diarrhoeal diseases during the first six months of life as .5 among the entirely breast-fed, 3.5 among those fed on condensed milk, and 3.8 among those fed on cow's milk. Dr. Richards is inclined to invoke the influence of polluted soil as a contributory cause in the infection of milk.

In all the papers cited the danger from an ordinary city milk supply and the advantages of mother's milk are made very evident. The possibility of a proper artificial milk supply is considered by Dr. G. F. McCleary in the *Lancet* for Oct. 3, 1903. He points out that the low death-rate among breast-fed children may be due not only to their freedom from infection, but also to the acquisition of specific immunizing bodies transmitted according to Dr. Welch through the mother's milk. When, however, this natural nourishment cannot be had, modified and sterilized milk furnishes a fair substitute. Dr. McCleary examines the statistics of children fed on such milk supplied from a public station in Battersea, and shows that, while the death-rate per 100 births in the whole borough (excluding deaths in the first seven days) was 11.89, that among the dépôt-fed children (excluding those taking the milk for less than a week) was 6.34. This is an admirable showing, considering that most of the children receiving the modified milk were under six months old, many were sick, and a high proportion illegitimate, while of course many of the children outside were fed at the breast in a normally healthy way.

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CENSUS WAGE INQUIRY.

Employees and Wages. By Davis R. Dewey. *Special Report, Twelfth Census of the United States.* Washington, 1903. pp. cxv, 1228.

This report is the result of a special inquiry planned by Mr. S. N. D. North in regard to the wages of individual employees in a number of selected manufacturing establishments in the United States for the years 1890 and 1900. For several censuses the problem of making a statistical presentation of the wages of workmen has been one of increasing difficulty. The reasons for this have been clearly recognized by the census officials. In brief, the difficulties in the interpretation of census wage statistics are due:—

(1) To the lack of information in regard to the precise character of the work performed by each employee, and the consequent inability to distinguish between the skilled and unskilled laborer. If there